

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

In the claims

1-11. (cancelled)

12. (currently amended): A method of altering gaseous flow in a lung, comprising:
locating a site in the lung for creating a collateral channel;
creating the channel in an airway wall of the lung;
temporarily inserting a conduit into channel; and
subsequently removing the conduit after the channel has healed in an open position.

13. (previously presented): The method of claim 12, where subsequently removing the conduit comprises removing the conduit after the channel heals in an open position.

14. (previously presented): The method of claim 12, where creating the channel comprises creating the channel using a mode selected from the group consisting of radio frequency, ultrasonic energy, a laser, microwave energy, chemicals, and cryo-ablative energy.

15. (currently amended): The method claim 12, where creating the channel comprises creating the collateral channel by using a mechanical process selected from the group ~~comprising dilation~~ consisting of, cutting, piercing, and bursting.

16. (previously presented): The method of claim 12, where creating the channel comprises creating the collateral channel by creating an incision to create the channel.

17. (previously presented): The method of claim 16, further comprising dilating the channel.

18. (currently amended): The method of claim 12, where locating the site comprises examining the lung using an imaging method selected from the group consisting of radiography, computer tomography, ultrasound, Doppler, MRI, PET and acoustic imaging.

19. (previously presented): The method of claim 18, where examining the lung comprises examining for areas of collateral ventilation.
20. (previously presented): The method of claim 18, further comprising adding an agent to the lung to assist in identifying hyperinflation of the lungs.
21. (previously presented): The method of claim 12, further comprising providing a medication to the lung where the medication inhibit the healing process of the lung.
22. (previously presented): The method of claim 12, where the medication comprises a steroid.
23. (previously presented): The method of claim 12, further comprising applying a cyanoacrylate, fibrin or other biocompatible adhesive to the collateral channel.
24. (previously presented): The method of claim 12, where the conduit comprises a plug.
25. (previously presented): The method of claim 24, where the plug comprises a solid plug.
26. (previously presented): The method of claim 24, where the plug is bioabsorbable.
27. (previously presented): The method of claim 12, where the conduit comprises a material selected from the group comprising elastomer, polymers, metals, metal alloys, shape memory alloys, shape memory polymers, and any combination thereof.
28. (previously presented): The method of claim 12, further comprising expanding the conduit after insertion into the channel.
29. (previously presented): The method of claim 12, where the conduit is configured to create the channel.
30. (previously presented): The method of claim 12, where inserting the conduit into the channel comprises placement of the channel within the airway.

- 31. (previously presented): The method of claim 12, where the conduit include the a flange or anchors to facilitate placement of the conduit within an airway.
- 32. (previously presented): The method of claim 12, where the conduit includes a one-way valve.
- 33. (previously presented): The method of claim 12, where the conduit includes a self cleaning mechanism to clear accumulating debris.
- 34. (previously presented): The method of claim 12, further comprising inserting a device into the lungs to determine the degree of collateral ventilation in the lung.
- 35. (new): The method of claim 12, where the conduit comprises a sponge material.